## **CLAIMS**

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- 1. A method of increasing healing of a heart wound in a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of a thyroid hormone-lowering agent, whereby healing of a heart wound in the mammal is increased relative to healing of a heart wound in a mammal to whom the thyroid hormone-lowering agent has not been administered.
- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is propylthiouracil.
- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is methimazole.
  - 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is carbamizole.
  - 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is radiolabeled iodide.
- 15 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is a ribozyme.
  - 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the ribozyme specifically binds to an mRNA molecule encoding thyroglobulin.
  - 8. The method of claim 6 wherein the ribozyme specifically binds to an mRNA molecule encoding thyroid stimulating hormone.
    - 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is an antisense oligonucleotide.
    - 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide specifically binds to an mRNA molecule encoding thyroglobulin.
- 25 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide specifically binds to an mRNA molecule encoding thyroid stimulating hormone.
  - 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is an antibody.
- 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the antibody specifically binds to thyroglobulin.

- 14. The method of claim 12 wherein the antibody specifically binds to thyroid stimulating hormone.
  - 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a C57Bl/6 mouse.
  - 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.
- 5 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the increased healing in the mammal comprises re-epithelialization.
  - 18. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent decreases T3 levels.
  - 19. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent decreases T4 levels.
  - 20. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent is administered prior to wounding.
  - 21. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent is administered after wounding.
- 15 22. The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent is administered concomitant with wounding.
  - 23. The method of claim 1 wherein the heart wound is selected from the group consisting of an ischemic infarct, a surgical incision, a cut, an abrasion, a tissue punch, a crush, a burn, a tear, a puncture, and a cold-induced lesion.

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